

17.

Recd. Aug. 10.

Salim August 30 1838.

LIBRARY
NEW YORK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN.

Dear Sir,

While botanizing a few days ago in Plymouth (Mass) the enclosed specimen of *Utricularia* was pointed out to me growing in company with *U. purpurea* & several other species. *U. purp.* is the only one with purple flowers described in Beck, Elliott & Nuttall thinks in his "Genera" that the family is in great confusion. Flowers of enclosed smaller, spur more obtuse, not appressed, vesicular foliage less abundant than with *U. purp.* A second species, which I have not examined particularly, with flowers by threes, yellow, slightly striate, resembling an *Antirrhinum*, but cannot be *U. personata* of LeBon was also found by me in the same locality of which I have no specimens at hand. The exceptional drought of the summer has afforded an excellent opportunity to gather aquatic plants in this neighborhood.

I understand that Dr Gray has rec'd the appointment of Professor of Botany in our University in Michigan. You are so kind as to express a favorable opinion of my

humble merit in Botany & considered me capable of filling the
station of botanist on some state survey. Should it be in
your power & agreeable to your own ideas of propriety
to recommend me to some lectureship or curatorship in some
institution, you may consider "me in the market." Our own
Harvard (Cambridge) must make some such choice
either in a temporary lecturer or by a permanent pro-
fessor. & which I hesitate in asking of you such a
favor, yet I feel confident that a single kind
word of interference in my behalf would avail
much with the Corporation of that university. You will
excuse this liberty, should I have transgressed the bounds
of propriety in my delightful but too short acquaint-
ance with you, or have interfered in any way with
arrangements of your own. Feeling confident that the per-
suit of the Natural Sciences, especially Botany, is the
field of my usefulness, I appeal to ^{the} generous sympathy
of others of merited reputation, for aid.

I am happy to learn that you have announced
the publication of your Flora. I trust you will command
my services, even in the smallest matter, towards

the successful prosecution of the work.

Since being introduced to the fossil animalcules of Prof Bailey in your study last June, I have found the same but much more abundant & finer in the subsoil of heat meadows in this vicinity. A microscope of the manufacture of Leary, London displays these elegant remains in great beauty & power. The substance in which they are found by me, is lighter, more friable & of a more ashen color than the same from West Point.

With sentiments of great respect & esteem

Yours truly

John Lewis Russell.

To Dr John Torrey }
New York }

Enquire of Mr. Torrey as to the locality of the fossil animalcules at New York.

To

Dr. John Torrey
(Presum. of Postage &c)

New York

Single paid {

N.Y.